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REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES

National Police Week ceremonies at Headquarters honor memory of officers who died in the line of duty

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Unity, freedom focus of Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration

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COMMISSIONER TOURS U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Ziglar unveils new bi-national border security and safety measures, enhancements for the world's busiest port

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HEADQUARTERS *News*

“*Each of you as an INS employee can make a difference and can make this country a better place for all of its citizens.*”

—Sandy Hoa Dang

INS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION FOCUSES ON UNITY, FREEDOM

THE events of Sept. 11 have brought new meaning to the words “unity” and “freedom,” said Sandy Hoa Dang, the guest speaker at the INS Asian Pacific American Heritage month celebration at Headquarters on May 23.

“This tragedy has made the word ‘freedom’ mean so much more to us. We have to protect

the word ‘freedom’ for all our citizens all of the time,” Dang said. “Each of you as an INS employee can make a difference and can make this country a better place for all of its citizens.”

Respecting one another

Posing the question “where do we go from here?” Dang said it is important to use the concepts of freedom and unity to learn about each other.

“I looked up the word ‘unity’ and it means ‘one.’ In order to be one, we need to value and respect each other,” she said. “I believe that in order for us to have unity, we need to continue to learn from each other.”

And for Dang, nothing is more important than the freedom to value and respect each other as one.

“In this country, we have the freedom to be ourselves. It is OK to be different. It is OK for us to practice our own religion,” she said.

An immigrant herself, Dang is the founder and executive director of Asian American Leadership, Empowerment, and Development (LEAD). She said she knows what it’s like to rebuild one’s social and economic structure and remembers longing for the day when she could settle in a country she could call “home.”

Dreaming of America

“When I was living in a refugee camp, I dreamed of the day I would come to the beautiful country called America,” Dang said.



Students from Hunters Woods Elementary School perform a traditional Asian dance as part of the Asian Pacific American Heritage month celebration at Headquarters.

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Deputy Commissioner Mike Becraft presents the Statue of Liberty trophy to guest speaker Sandy Hoa Dang.

"I remember longing for the day I could build my home in America."

When she was 13, Dang and her family immigrated to the United States after being forced to leave Vietnam and live in a refugee camp in Hong Kong. Dang quickly capitalized on all the opportunities offered to her.

"I was very fortunate because of the way things turned out," she said. "I was fortunate to have my parents, my neighbors, and the education I received in Vietnam and in this country."

Dang told the audience how important it is to remember why immigrants and refugees come to this country.

"We want to be here because of what this country stands for," she said. "Refugees and immigrants come here looking for that dream, and when we get here we want to live for that dream."

Living up to the vision

As a nation of immigrants, "most of us agree that we are in this country because we want to live in a just society. We are here because we want to live up to the vision and idealism that brought about the birth of this nation," she said.

Dang gave her audience a challenge to do something each day to work toward a vision of creating a world where there is liberty and justice for all.

But she said that challenge isn't always an easy one and that we have to give what we can at different stages in our life. And in order to do that, Dang told her audience, "we should always be doing something."

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BUSH SIGNS BORDER SECURITY BILL RAISING BASIC PAY, ALLOWING HIRES

PRESIDENT Bush signed a border security bill May 14 that will allow the INS to hire more investigators and inspectors, upgrade the basic pay for Border Patrol agents and inspectors, and deploy several high-tech tools to monitor who crosses the border and how long they stay.

"We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave," Bush said of the new law at a signing ceremony. "That's important for us to know. It's knowledge necessary to make our homeland more secure."

Overwhelming bipartisan support

An overwhelming, bipartisan majority in both Houses of Congress approved the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002, which

authorizes funding for 800 new inspectors and 800 new investigators between 2003 and 2006 and upgrades the journey-level pay for Border Patrol Agents from the GS-9 to GS-11 level and for inspectors from the GS-9 to GS-11 level.

"You know, sometimes in Washington we actually are able to put our political parties aside and focus on what's best for the country," Bush said. "...And this has happened in this bill."

The new law serves to take advantage of many new technological tools to track foreign students on temporary visas and check passenger and crew lists of incoming jetliners and ships from overseas. It also requires all travel documents for those entering the country to include biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints or retinal

scans.

"We must use technology and be wise about how we use technology, to speed the flow of commerce across our borders, and to identify frequent travelers who pose no risk," Bush said. "We should be directing resources to risk. We ought to be routing out smugglers and focusing on criminals—and, of course, stopping terrorists from coming into the country."

The law also bars the use of certain visas by people from countries listed as terrorism sponsors—unless a special finding is made that an individual is no threat to this country—and calls for maintenance of a database to help federal officials bar possible terrorists. Such a list already exists under the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force that Bush created after Sept. 11.

"The legislation requires law enforcement and intelligence communities to continue to develop a list of suspected terrorists, and to maintain that list, and to make it readily available, so that nobody is granted entry into the United States that's on the list," Bush said.

Several key requirements

Other key requirements include the following:

- Installing scanners at points of entry that can recognize a traveler's unique biometrics
- Making all travel and entry documents, including visas, issued to aliens machine-readable and tamper-resistant and equipped with biometric-recognition technology
- Making all U.S. passports issued after 2003 tamper-proof and equipped with biometric-recognition technology
- Making all INS databases interoperable, so that all information about a particular alien may be accessed with a single search
- Mandating federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies share data on aliens with the INS and the State Department
- Mandating INS establish a foreign-student tracking system that records the acceptance of nonimmigrants by educational institutions, the issuance of student visas, and the enrollment of nonimmigrants at schools
- Authorizing funding for training of INS personnel and additional funding for the expansion of the Carrier Consultant Program, which stations INS personnel at foreign airports to assist air carriers in the detection of fraudulent travel or immigration documents

The President said the bill is an important step in securing the border while promoting trade, commerce, and respect.

"We must always protect the rights of our law—of law-abiding citizens from around the world who come here to conduct business or to study or to spend time with their family," he said. "That's what we're known for. We're known for respect."

"We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave."

—President Bush



Students interested in careers with the INS discuss possibilities with National Customer Service Center representatives.

INS SETS UP INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS AT PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

THE contributions of INS, other government agencies, and the U.S. military were showcased during Public Service Recognition Week activities on the National Mall between May 9-12 in Washington, D.C.

"If you want to make a contribution to this great nation, there's no better place to do it than in serving at the federal, state, or local level in public service," said Kay Coles James, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

James, the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony, told the audience to look out at the displays, which were set up on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and Capital Building, where "you will find one of the most formidable weapons of democracy—the federal work force."

Public Service Recognition Week takes place the first Monday through Sunday in May and recognizes the contributions of America's military personnel and federal, state, and local public servants. The event also provides an opportunity for government agencies to showcase their contributions to the general public and boost recruitment.

And showcase its contributions the INS did. INS' interactive displays—set up in a tent shared with the Department of Transportation, U.S. Customs Service, and FBI—drew crowds which were able to see first hand what an impact the agency makes on a daily basis.

"I wish everyone had the opportunity to spend three days showing off what they do best to a most appreciative public audience," said Debra Giglio, senior project manager and Public Service Recognition Week coordinator for INS.

The displays were staffed with personnel dressed in uniform and business attire from Inspections, ISD, Investigations, Detention and Removal, and Border Patrol who were readily available to talk to the public and answer questions about what they do and why they have chosen public service careers.

Whether they were sitting on the Border Patrol's ATV or jet ski, trying out Inspections' IDENT and NEXUS computer systems, learning about the Border Patrol's K-9 program, or watching videos about the Border Patrol's day-to-day operations, kids and adults alike found INS' interactive displays engaging. The public also did not go home empty-handed. Most exhibits offered plenty of give-away items, which were a big hit with children and adults.

"Working on the Public Service Recognition Week event was a unique experience," Giglio said. "After all, the team consisted of INS employees—each an expert in their program area—who were charged with showing the best and brightest of INS."

INS' FALLEN OFFICERS HONORED DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

THE mood was somber but full of pride as INS silently honored its fallen officers at a half-hour ceremony May 14 in front of Headquarters.

"The nation celebrates National Police Week in honor of the men and women in law enforcement who, through their vigilance and dedication, protect and promote our freedoms and the well-being of all Americans," INS Commissioner James Ziglar said.

The ceremony, organized by the Border Patrol, brought together uniformed officers from Border Patrol as well as Inspections along with INS staff and surviving family members of fallen INS officers.

"This is the week that we publicly show our warmth, love, and compassion to the families of our fallen heroes," Assistant Chief Dan Harris Jr. said. "Our fallen agents will never be forgotten."

INS employees stood at attention as Border Patrol agents saluted the memory of the fallen officers during a moment of silence paying tribute to the fallen heroes.

A crowd of spectators gathered along I Street to watch the Commissioner and U.S. Border Patrol Acting Deputy Chief Robert Harris lay a memorial wreath near the entrance of INS Headquarters. A Border Patrol Honor Guard kept watch at the memorial for the remainder of the day.

Later that afternoon, the INS honored the families of its fallen officers in a special program inside of Headquarters.

There the Commissioner and Acting Deputy Chief Robert Harris presented the families of the fallen officers with plaques and memorabilia in honor of their loved ones' service to the agency.



Members of the Border Patrol's Honor Guard present the American flag to the families of the fallen officers.



Uniformed officers bow their heads in a moment of silence honoring the agency's fallen officers at a ceremony in front of Headquarters.

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INS NEWS *of Note*

SALT LAKE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE THANKS INS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

DURING the 2002 Winter Olympics, the world's greatest athletes tested themselves and one another in Salt Lake City, Utah. The games were also a major test of the INS' ability to process and protect those international athletes and an estimated million-plus visitors in the beefed-up security environment following Sept. 11.

Representatives of the Salt Lake Olympic Committee came to Headquarters on May 15 to make sure it was known INS passed the test with gold-medal service.

"By our being able to be here, maybe the word will get down the line and down the line and down the line to those who were standing out there in the brutal cold on some nights and those who were working at airport floors where the athletes came in," said Doug Arnot, the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee managing director for event operations.

He said the United States got very high praise from the Olympic athletes and visitors for the efficient and respectful way they were processed at the ports of entry. He also noted the solid performance of some 250 Border Patrol agents assigned to security, under the direct field command of the Secret Service, at Park City and Deer Valley, Utah.

"Across the board the work that INS did for us was not only appreciated, but obviously very much needed and led to the flawless performance," Arnot said. "You helped show people what America is all about. Thank you!"

Several innovations of Department of State and INS planners debuted at the 2002 Winter Olympics. One was Olympic identification and accreditation cards for members of the "Olympic Family"—some 29,000 athletes, coaches, judges, and other officials—that served both as a visa for entering the United States and an identify card for gaining admission to the Olympic Village and competitive venues.

The identification cards enabled another innovation—members of the "Olympic Family" were able to obtain their visas to enter the United States without setting foot in a U.S. embassy overseas.

"The athletes were thrilled, which, of course, meant a great deal to us," Arnot said.

Arnot; Annie Bovaird, the committee's domestic dignitary program manager; and Laura Marcus of the federal relations group of the committee's domestic dignitary program presented Acting Chief of Staff Victor Cerda with an Olympic torch symbolizing fire and ice inscribed with the 2002 Winter Games' theme: "Light the Fire Inside"

"We did light a fire in the people of the United States, and many people around the world will say there is hope for peace and a future for people living together," Arnot said. "The inspiration of the games speaks volumes as to what this country is all about and what you and your people are all about."

In accepting the torch, Cerda said it was a pleasure for INS employees to take part in such an important event and to be recognized during a hectic time.

"They really enjoyed the mission, they enjoyed the class act all the way, and they enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to something of this magnitude, especially after Sept. 11," he said.



Posing with the Olympic torch INS received from the Salt Lake Olympic Committee (SLOC) for a job well done are (left to right) Robert L. Harris, acting deputy chief, Border Patrol; Ronald Smith, deputy associate, field operations; Victor Cerda, acting chief of staff; Chuck Sears, assistant chief, Border Patrol; Patrice Ward, chief inspector; Doug Arnot, managing director for event operations, SLOC; Laura Marcus, domestic dignitary program/federal relations, SLOC; and Anne Bovaird, domestic dignitary program manager, SLOC.



Acting Chief of Staff Victor Cerda accepts an Olympic Torch from Doug Arnot, the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee managing director for event operations.

ASHCROFT ANNOUNCES NEW REGULATION FOR TRACKING FOREIGN STUDENTS WITH THE INTERNET

GOVERNMENT officials requiring information about foreign students, exchange visitors, and their dependents will soon be able to access this information on the Internet with the click of a mouse.

"Today, we begin the process of bringing our student visa system into the 21st century," Attorney General John Ashcroft said. "We are taking advantage of the latest in technology to link colleges and universities to the Immigration and Naturalization Service in a centralized, rapid-access reporting system."

Student records centralized

INS has developed an Internet-based database, called the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), to centralize international student records from schools around the country. The new system will link 74,000 schools and colleges with INS and port authorities, Department of Justice, and Department of State U.S. consulates—providing a more immediate means of reporting on students.

"The United States of America will not allow our welcome to be abused by those who disguise themselves and their intentions," Ashcroft said. "We will ensure that visitors observe time limits, that students study peaceably, and that our immigration laws are accorded the same respect that we strive to extend to our guests who come to visit this country."

The Attorney General's remarks were made at a May 10 press conference where he announced the submission for public comment of a new regulation that would make school participation in SEVIS mandatory. INS will begin implementation of SEVIS on a voluntary basis with institutions of learning on July 1. Under the proposed rule, participation will become mandatory by January 30, 2003.

Schools accountable for status

"Schools will be accountable for confirming the status of student visa holders," Ashcroft said. "The Immigration and Naturalization Service will be accountable for enforcing violations of that status. And the American people will gain a measure of assurance that students visiting our country are who they purport to be."

Under the new regulation, schools will have to notify the INS via the Internet if a student fails to take the required course load or drops out, fails to show up, or is disciplined for criminal behavior.

Schools also will be required to report the status of each student after each term and any other changes, such as in name or address.

Students will have only 30 days to arrive at their school after entering the United States. Previously they were allowed 180 days.

Ashcroft said the SEVIS system will enable INS to better monitor each school's compliance with its reporting obligations and "correct dramatically" three basic problems with the current system:

- The current system does not efficiently verify a student's enrollment status. Under the SEVIS regulations, schools will be notified when a student arrives at a port of entry and will be required to report to the INS if the student fails to appear for enrollment.
- Under the current paper-based system, a significant time lag exists between an event taking place, such as a student dropping out of school, and the INS receiving the information. SEVIS will eliminate this lag.
- Under the current system, student visa forms are subject to theft and are often sold and used to support fraudulent visa applications. SEVIS will solve this problem by canceling the unused forms and taking them out of circulation.

SEVIS has been under development by the INS for several years since the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act was passed by Congress in 1996. But the plan met stiff opposition from school administrators, who said the program would be burdensome and intrude on the students' rights. Following last fall's attacks, many U.S. institutions of higher learning reassessed their previous views about student privacy and government intrusion.

"We developed this rule in consultation with representatives of our colleges and universities and we appreciate their valuable contribution and cooperation," Ashcroft said.

BORDER PATROL DETECTIVE WORK REUNITES FATHER AND SON AFTER MORE THAN 50 YEARS

A chance meeting between American and French immigration agents in March 2000 not only showed what a small world we live in, its ripple effect forever changed the lives of two families—who were really one—living in France and Texas. The following is a first-hand account of members of the INS community going beyond the call of duty to reunite a father and son after more than 50 years. Arnold Perez is a supervisory Border Patrol agent out of Kingsville, Texas, and Pablo Campos is an Immigration Officer (Deportation) in the Rome, Italy, District Office.

By Arnold Perez

Unusual E-mail

"The darnest thing!" was the title of an unusual e-mail I received from my good friend Pablo Campos in March 2000. In it he explained how he had been involved in a training exercise with Spanish, Italian, and French border police, or their equivalent of our Border Patrol. Pablo wrote that at the exercise, he met a French officer named Jean Francois Fossard, who resembled our native Texans or "Tejanos."

Through a translator, he was able to communicate with him and discover that the reason he had Tejano features was that his father was a Tejano. Pablo also found out that Jean had never met his father and had spent his whole life searching for him. The only information Jean had of this father was that his name was Frank Perez and that he once lived in a small town in South Texas called Kingsville. Pablo also wrote that Patricia Fietz, consular officer, Marseilles, France, would be contacting me with more information. Then he asked if I could help Jean find his father.



A chance meeting with a Border Patrol agent on assignment in France—who remarked on Jean Francois Fossard's Tejano features—led to his reunion with his father after more than 50 years.



Jean Francois Fossard (right) is overcome with happiness as his half-brother, Jacques Fossard (left), translates as he meets his father, Frank Perez (middle), for the first time. The two met after Border Patrol agents helped him find his father.

At first I thought Pablo was kidding, and I suggested that we might be opening up a Pandora's box. After all, I am a Perez and was raised in Kingsville, Texas, where I live today. Regardless, I was very curious and offered to do my best.

I sat on the information for about two weeks until the consular officer sent me an e-mail with the same basic information. She added that Frank Perez served in the military during World War II and was stationed in France around 1945. Frank and Jean's mother, Susan Bourkel, met in her hometown of Nancy, France, around that time frame. Frank left France later that year and had not been heard from since. Jean, on the other hand, was born in 1946 and had spent his whole life searching for the father he never knew.

Patricia also mentioned that she had helped others find lost relatives and was hoping to find a happy ending for Jean. Her e-mail confirmed what Pablo had written and provided me with Jean's e-mail address to communicate with him directly. I wrote to Jean immediately to ask for any additional information. He later sent me scanned photos of his mother, aunt, uncle, and of himself.

The Search and Research

After much contemplation on where to start, I decided to start by searching the Kleberg County records. I figured that if Frank Perez had served in the military and was from Kingsville, Texas, his discharge papers would be recorded there. To my utter surprise, the search was quick. With the help of a clerk, we searched by name and found the record of three persons by the name of Francisco Perez (Frank is often short for Francisco). One of them was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1946 and indicated that he had served in France. I had a gut feeling that this was the guy we were looking for.

I quickly scanned the form and sadly discovered that this person was born in San Diego, Texas, on Dec. 14, 1915. This made him about 84 years old. I figured that even if this was the guy we were searching for, what were the chances he was still alive? Well, if he was deceased, chances were good that he would be buried in Kingsville, Texas. To my relief, no death record existed for a Francisco Perez in Kleberg County. I copied Francisco's discharge record and left the courthouse feeling pretty optimistic.

The copy of the discharge papers I had obtained from the courthouse gave me some pretty good leads on where to continue my search. I focused my search on Kingsville and worked my way out to the surrounding area. I think I spoke with just about everyone whose last name is Perez. Wow, there's quite a few of us. I did the same with San Diego, Texas, where Francisco was born, figuring that he or his family might still be living there. Interestingly, my wife is from San Diego and probably knows everyone there. I figured she could help. Unfortunately, neither she nor her parents had a clue. No one knew of the Francisco Perez I was searching for. I had hit a wall.

While I was searching for Frank Perez, my job with the Border Patrol was that of an Intelligence Agent (IA). As an IA I would spend long hours researching and gathering information on a number of topics, mostly people, and usually successfully. Well needless to say, when it came to the topic of Frank Perez, I felt that I was not up to the task. I was not getting anywhere.

That is, until I asked for help. You see, part of any success in the intelligence world is gathering information from various sources and hopefully piecing the puzzle together. Using the same approach, I contacted a few friends and within a couple of days received information on two persons named Francisco Perez. One was from the Rio Grande Valley and the other was from Corpus Christi, Texas. They also provided me with an address and phone number for each one. The valley phone number was not a working number, so I put my hopes on the other one.

On my initial call, I spoke with a woman who said Francisco was not home. I figured her to be his wife. Due to the sensitive nature of the information, I was purposely vague with her and asked her to have Francisco call me back. The thought that this might be the father Jean had been searching for all those years got me really excited. The following night, I received a call from another woman who said she was Francisco's sister-in-law. She wanted to know what my business with Frank was and felt that

I was looking to run a scam on him. I asked her to have Frank call me.

After a few days of no response, I tried the number again. This time, an elderly man answered and identified himself as Frank Perez. I must admit, I was very nervous. I talked to him from a prepared script, easing into the subject, to not scare him away. After I was done and had explained what it was I was searching for, he dashed my hopes by simply saying he was not that man. Disappointed, I thanked him for his time. Then, just as I was ready to hang up, he said he would be driving through Kingsville, Texas, the following Thursday and would meet with me anyway. He said he would call me at noon. My hopes were rekindled.

The Meeting

Like clockwork, on Thursday at straight up noon, I received a call from Frank wanting to meet me. He told me that he would meet with me at a local Catholic Church. I arrived at the church and waited for him, expecting someone to be driving him. He drove up, in a pickup truck alone, and in excellent condition for his age.

I reiterated to Frank the reason I had wanted to meet with him, and instead of saying he was not the man I was looking for, he said he had been in France during World War II. I then handed him the photos of Jean and his family. He started to tremble when I handed him Susan Bourkel's picture. It was a picture of a young Susan Bourkel—the Susan he met in France, the Susan he remembered. Then he told me the story.

Francisco "Frank" Perez was a cook assigned to an Army company in France during the war. He was stationed near Nancy, France, and would go there regularly while off duty. It was on one of his trips to Nancy that he met Susan. Frank said that at the time he was in love with her and wanted to bring her back to the United States with him. The paperwork did not go through, and he returned stateside alone and eventually lost contact with her. He was unaware that she was pregnant. She never told him. Had she told him, their lives would have turned out completely different.

“I want to thank Pablo and Arnold, and I want to thank my fellow border enforcement officers and my profession for affording me the opportunity to approach people who knew people who could make my dreams come true [after 24 years of approaching tourists from Texas]. So that others can benefit from my story, I want to say always keep your faith and keep trying. One day you will have satisfaction and your prayers will be answered. Today, I can say that I am proud to be a Texan.”

—Jean Francois Fossard

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INS NEWSFROM *the Field*

SPECIAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN HOSPITAL ENABLES WIDOW, MOTHER OF 4 TO GET TRANSPLANT

A widow and mother of four in Texas—who was unlikely to get a liver transplant because she was not a U.S. citizen—was given a new lease on life thanks to the extra efforts of the Houston District Office.

“This truly is a touching story, and when her family brought this case to our attention, we had to help her. She is a law-abiding member of this community, and the INS has saved her life,” said Congressman Gene Green of Texas.

A catch-22

The widow is Attiya Tanauli, a native of Pakistan, who has been a legal permanent resident for several years. A few years ago she found out that her liver was failing, but her hopes of receiving a transplant were slim because she was not a U.S. citizen. As a catch-22, she wanted to be a citizen, but her failing health and hospitalization was keeping her from completing the naturalization process.

Her son, Dr. Nasir Tanauli, a resident anesthesiologist at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, contacted Congressman Green’s office in hopes that his dying mother could receive a liver



The happy Tanauli family after the ceremony: (from left to right) Rafi Tanauli; Tahira Waqar, M.D.; Attiya Tanauli; Nasir Tanauli, M.D.; and Zafar Tanauli.



Acting Houston District Director Mike Heston swears Attiya Tanauli in as a U.S. citizen, enabling the widow and mother of four to obtain a liver transplant 23 days later.

of her medical condition, we felt compelled to give her case special attention,” said Mike Heston, acting district director.

Green’s office and the Houston INS District office worked diligently to expedite Tanauli’s dream of citizenship, including making special arrangements to have an adjudications officer conduct the interview at her hospital bedside. After her naturalization application was approved, they also made arrangements to perform a special naturalization ceremony for her at the hospital.

Special ceremony

On May 3, with Heston serving as the presiding official, a very frail Tanauli raised her right hand and whispered the oath of allegiance. With her grown children and Congressman Green present, she raised an American flag, and thanked all involved in helping her not only fulfil her American dream, but for saving her life.



While holding the American flag, Attiya Tanauli thanks the INS and Congressman Green for saving her life.

Just 23 days later, on May 26, she received the liver transplant. Her son, Dr. Tanauli, said she has improved 100 percent, is walking, and carrying out normal life activities without any problems.

“After receiving her citizenship, I was able to apply for her health coverage, which expedited her chances of getting a transplant,” he said. “It would have not been possible without the help of INS. My deepest thanks to all the officials who came out and expedited the case, helped, and, in fact, gave a new life to my mother.”

transplant sooner than projected. Green’s office notified the Houston District Office and explained the delicacy of the Tanauli case.

“This applicant fulfilled all of the requirements, but due to the delicate nature

ZIGLAR UNVEILS NEW SECURITY MEASURES, PORT ENHANCEMENTS DURING BORDER TOUR

INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar got a chance to talk with front line agents and supervisors on a recent two-day tour of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The tour took place May 23 in Tucson, Ariz., where the Commissioner unveiled new bi-national border security and safety measures, and May 24 in San Diego, Calif., where he announced enhancements for the world's busiest port, San Ysidro.

"These latest steps represent a major breakthrough in the ongoing effort to make the Southern border safer for the people of both nations," Ziglar said.

A joint effort with new measures

In an ongoing effort for border security and safety, the Commissioner outlined a series of new measures aimed at raising the level of awareness and reducing the dangers along the Southwest border. These measures target southwestern Arizona and southeastern California and include an unprecedented agreement between the United States and Mexico to join forces to identify and arrest migrant smugglers.

"We are particularly excited about the joint resolve to combat migrant smuggling," Ziglar said. "Those who put migrants' lives in harm's way should be on notice that we will not allow the border to be a barrier to justice."

To thwart smugglers who operate in the dangerous corridor of Imperial Valley and around the American Canal, the two nations are expanding their intelligence sharing. INS is also establishing an intelligence cell in El Centro designed specifically to gather information on smugglers operating in the area. In addition, INS is deploying a newly formed horse patrol unit and two specially equipped hovercrafts to provide surveillance and safety around the Canal.

The Border Patrol will also play a role in stepping up security with the addition of five helicopters and eight pilots to patrol the Southwest border on a temporary basis beginning in June. In addition, 10 more Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) team agents have been assigned to the El Centro Sector.

New rescue beacons

Meanwhile, the Yuma Sector has begun testing six "rescue beacons," which will help migrants who become stranded in the remote sections of western Arizona. Designed and built by the sector, the beacons



Commissioner Ziglar sits at the controls of one of the skywatch towers used for surveillance along the border near Tucson.



Commissioner Ziglar speaks to a group of Border Patrol agents during his visit to the Tucson Border Patrol Station.

send an electronic distress signal to the sector's communications center when the button at their base is pushed. A metal sign posted on the beacons advises migrants in English and Spanish "If you need help, push red button. U.S. Border Patrol will arrive in one hour. Do not leave this location."

The 30-foot tall beacons rest on a concrete base and are topped by reflective mirrors and a strobe light to make them visible for up to four miles during the day and five miles at night.

"We are committed to doing everything possible to make our Southern border safer and more secure, and that should be reassuring for citizens for both nations," Ziglar said.

Funding for "smart" borders

Meanwhile, in San Diego, the Commissioner announced plans to pump at least \$1 million in additional funding into the SENTRI (Secure Electronic Network for Travelers' Rapid Inspection) dedicated commuter lane program. He said he considers dedicated computer lanes a key to "smart" borders.

"People sign up for SENTRI because they want to avoid the congestion at the border," he said. "Our goal is to make sure they don't have to wait in line too long to take advantage of this program."

The program enables INS and the Customs Service to accelerate the inspection of certain low risk, pre-enrolled crossers at ports of entry. More than 18,000 participants are enrolled in SENTRI, making it the largest dedicated commuter operation in the nation.

"SENTRI is no longer an experiment, it's a success story," the Commissioner said. "I'm here to make a downpayment on the future of SENTRI and the future of San Diego."

TEAMWORK IN BANGKOK DISMANTLES SMUGGLING RING LINKED TO TERRORISM

INS recently disrupted a large-scale smuggling operation tied to terrorism in Thailand, following a six-month investigation that led to the arrests of seven major smugglers and document vendors.

“Operation Big Man is an excellent example of how important teamwork is between INS and other law enforcement agencies, both domestic and foreign,” said Brian Vaillancourt, assistant district director for investigations of the INS Bangkok Enforcement Team.

Under Operation Big Man, the Bangkok District Enforcement Team, INS London, Scotland Yard, and Thai police and military officials worked together to conduct database searches, examine passports and visas, conduct numerous link analyses, carry out a controlled mail delivery case, and provide other important law enforcement assistance.

Besides the arrests, the investigators also seized numerous counterfeit or altered passports, four counterfeit Canadian visa foils, and two transparencies for making a counterfeit visa printing plate for U.S. visas. Other items seized included United Nations IDs, a U.S. national ID, student IDs, international driving permits, a British Columbian ID, Malaysian biographic pages, several hundred fraudulent Indian passports, and a pistol.

Another 19 “customers” were apprehended in connection with the bust. They were in the process

of being supplied with false passports, visas, and other documents.

Vaillancourt said the evidence gathered in the investigation suggested that the individuals are linked to al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Algamate al Islamia, Thai Islamic extremists, and other terrorist organizations. Thai law enforcement officials using wire taps and informants gathered this evidence along with the INS Bangkok Enforcement Team using INS database checks and link analyses.

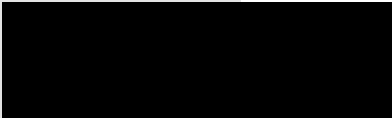
A related operation the team also carried out was Operation Serpentine, which focused on mail delivery tied to the criminal enterprise. Operation Serpentine led to the arrest of one of the major conspirators while he was visiting friends in London.

The case is ongoing and has produced not only a number of arrests and seizures, but a wealth of intelligence data that INS Bangkok is sharing with INS domestic and overseas offices as well as other U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies.

Vaillancourt said the case has enjoyed national media attention throughout Thailand and was even mentioned by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at a news conference.

“This is truly indicative of what outstanding results can be achieved in the ongoing fight against global terrorism, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and document vending,” Vaillancourt said.

.....

 IMMIGRATION agents arrested 24 persons and seized counterfeit documents and counterfeiting equipment May 8 in an operation designed to disrupt the continuing false document open-air markets in the Adams-Morgan neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

The Washington District Office carried out Operation Card Shark in coordination with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, the FBI, the INS Baltimore District, and the Metropolitan Police Department.

“We are pleased to support the INS in its effort to ensure that persons are issued valid identification documents,” said Roscoe C. Howard Jr., U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Following the search, INS agents seized 360 phony alien registration cards (green cards); 281 fraudulent social security cards; 70 bogus employment authorization cards; and 46 counterfeit drivers licenses from California, Utah, and Florida

along with equipment used for producing the documents.

“We are aggressively working to locate, arrest, and prosecute anyone who violates our laws relating to the possession, manufacture, or sale of counterfeit immigration documents,” said Warren A. Lewis, INS district director for the Washington District Office.

Seven of the individuals are being arraigned on felony charges. Of the seven, four are accused of manufacturing and distributing counterfeit documents, and three are being charged with re-entry into the United States after deportation. The remaining were arrested on immigration charges.

“Immigration enforcement is a major component in the ongoing effort to ensure that persons are issued valid identification documents,” Howard said.

If convicted, the arrested individuals face a minimum penalty of ten years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

SAN FRANCISCO MULTICULTURAL DAY EVENT SHOWCASES EMPLOYEES' DIVERSE HERITAGE

By Sharon Rummery

THEY did the hula and other dances, they played musical instruments, they sang, and they even displayed ancient martial arts in the San Francisco Information Room at the first observance of the district's Multicultural Day on May 17.

All in the name of joyously celebrating the San Francisco District's ethnic diversity, employees bent over steaming plates heaped with foods of many cultures and enjoyed entertainment provided by employees, their families, and others.

The idea came from the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee, and the build-up to the event was nearly as much fun as the program itself, with a bake sale in February and an Ethnic Food Sampler in March. Employees donated all the food, and all proceeds went to finance lunch at the May 17 event, provided free.

There was even a poster contest, won by Supervisory Special Agent Jean-Yves Fichou. He borrowed a graphic image of Noah's Ark, adding the tagline "it was a good idea. ... it still is."

When it came to entertainment, Deportation Officer Lisa Jang pulled out all the stops; she danced and brought her three daughters, a niece, and three great-nieces who performed Hawaiian, Tahitian, and Samoan dances in full costume. Adjustments of Status Section Chief Bill Ramos sang, as did Asylum Officer Joel Aliping and Angelica Alleyne, daughter of Investigative Assistant Teresa Alleyne.

Laura Quach, a stay-in-school student working in Citizenship, played the beautiful and elegant Chinese zither. Community Relations Officer Rosemarie Fan did a tai chi routine, and Orlando Nakai played the drums and chanted. At the end of



Tatiana Aiasau (left) and Teinari Aiasau—great-nieces of Deportation Officer Lisa Jang—demonstrate the hula.

the event, employees joined hands and did a Native American line dance.

Mistress of ceremonies Adrienne Rios, head of the local Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement Program, tied it all together with amusing comments and introductions. At one point, she even spurred a spontaneous dance routine between scheduled acts. Supervisory District Adjudications Officer Doria Moy was responsible for the overall coordination of the event.

"The EEO Advisory Committee, and all of the volunteers, did a terrific job of rolling a year's worth of cultural events into one big celebration," said Acting District Director Dave Still. "Everyone had a great time."

POLICE WEEK

Continued from page 5



The Border Patrol Honor Guard marches past the wreaths honoring the fallen officers.

"We are honored to have you join us, as we salute these fine officers as never being forgotten members of the INS family," Ziglar said.

The following INS agents and their families were honored this year:

- **Daniel M. James Jr.**, Laredo Sector, who died from injuries sustained from a motor vehicle accident
- **Jason C. Panides**, Laredo Sector, who was killed when he was struck by a vehicle
- **Xavier G. Magdaleno**, El Paso Sector, who died from injuries sustained in a vehicle/train collision

"We will never forget the supreme sacrifice that your loved ones gave by serving their country," Harris said.

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

OPERATION ARGUS GATHERS SMUGGLING INTELLIGENCE ALONG LOUISIANA COASTLINE

DISCOVERY of a possible smuggling operation and the apprehension of 14 aliens were the key results of Operation Argus, a three-day coastal patrol operation conducted May 20-22 in the New Orleans, La., Border Patrol sector in conjunction with the Coast Guard and Customs Service Marine Enforcement Branch.

"The Coast Guard, Customs Service, and Border Patrol working together in unison are evidence that the 'can do' attitude is alive and well in the New Orleans Sector," said New Orleans Border Patrol Sector Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Michael Gonzales, who oversaw the operation. "With the events of Sept. 11th, the focus on cooperative coastal border enforcement is becoming a bigger priority every day."

Operation Argus' goal was to gather intelligence pertaining to smugglers of illegal aliens and contraband entering the United States along the coastline south of New Iberia, La., extending west to Point La Hache, La. It was in keeping with the National Enforcement Strategy and Executive Order 13228, which established the Office of Homeland Security and coordinated the executive branch's effort to improve border security.

"Our operational goals were achieved in that intelligence gathering revealed numerous routes used by watercraft to enter the U.S. and that fishing boats attempt to circumvent entry into the United States where a large presence of coastal patrols are conducted," Gonzales said.

The most serious vulnerability the operation identified, he said, was shrimp boats returning from the Gulf of Mexico entering the numerous waterways along the coast.

"Many of these boats operate beyond the 12-mile limit and are never inspected upon their entry into the United States," he said. "They offload their cargo at one of many local fish outlets. These outlets are located on State Highways 1 and 56 leading northward to U.S. and interstate roadways."

Under Operation Argus, coastal patrol checkpoints were conducted at Barataria Pass near Grand Isle, La., and Belle Pass near Port Fourchon,



Coastal patrol checkpoints resulted in 14 aliens being taken into custody as part of Operation Argus.

La. As a result, 14 aliens were taken into custody and New Orleans Sector Anti-Smuggling Unit agents discovered a possible maritime smuggling operation posing as an "employment agency" charging money for employment to illegal aliens only.

Gonzales said that interviews of the shrimp boat crews revealed that boats stay out beyond territorial waters or near territorial boundaries to avoid law enforcement patrols, which rarely extend past these waters. They then proceed into the United States at sparsely populated areas where municipal law enforcement presence is likewise very scarce or non-existent.

"The information garnered during the operation indicates that the sector's Strategic Plan needs to be expanded to provide for greater agent presence and increased Border Control efforts in this and all similar areas," he said. "Hopefully this data will serve to trigger the timely allocation of sufficient resources to counter the threat."

Gonzales also noted that service managers now have a more accurate assessment of the national security vulnerabilities in the area and have forged closer ties other federal law enforcement agencies.

"The Coast Guard and Customs Service, Marine Enforcement Branch, were a great help," he said. "Without their assistance, we would not have been as successful as we were."



A Border Patrol canine sniffing during alien-smuggling operations.



Coast Guard and Border Patrol fleets working together under Operation Argus.

OUTSTANDING LAREDO TEENS HONORED AT YOUTH RECOGNITION NIGHT RECEPTION

THE U.S. Border Patrol Laredo Sector's Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) sponsored the Sixth Annual "Youth Recognition Night" reception May 6 at Laredo's International Bank of Commerce (IBC), the reception's co-sponsor.

"The Laredo Sector's Drug Demand Program encourages students and the community to lead a drug-free life and makes them aware of the dangers that confront them," said Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Oscar H. Garza Jr.

More than 800 parents, students, and community members attended the reception to honor the recipients of the DDRP's "Head of the Class," "Youth of the Month," and "Youth of the Year" awards as well as the bank's "Top Ten Students."

The "Head of the Class" program recognizes a student from each of the eight

local high schools who excels academically while being involved in his/her community and school. The "Youth of the Month" program recognizes a student who excels academically but also demonstrates determination to succeed despite obstacles.

"These student will generally work to help supplement their family's income, working until late at night, and still maintaining an above-average grade point average," Garza said. "All these students are so hard-working and deserving of recognition, it's very difficult to choose just one for the 'Youth of the Year.'"

This year's recipient of the Youth of the Year award was Adriana Gabriela Rodriguez, a senior at Laredo's J.B. Alexander High School. She was recognized, along with the other awardees, at the reception.



Border Patrol Agent Cathy Edwards (left) congratulates Adriana Gabriela Rodriguez, the Laredo Sector's 2002 "Youth of the Year" recipient.

Rodriguez also went on a special trip to the state capital on May 22 with State Senator Judith Zaffirini to meet with the governor, state attorney general, state comptroller and other officials. Joining her was her family, DDRP organizers headed by Agents Cathy Edwards and Jeff Ryan, Garza, Agent Fred Diaz, and Public Affairs Specialist Sarah A. Pocarobba.

REUNION

Continued from page 9

After hearing his story, I reminded Frank that he had a son who had spent his whole life looking for him and who wanted to talk to him. With pride, he complemented how good-looking Jean was. I pointed out that Susan had named their son after him. His middle name is Francois, the French version of Francisco. He then gave me an address where Jean could write to him, so they could get to know each other.

Son meets Dad

In early February of 2001, I received an e-mail from Jean telling me that he; his half-brother, Jacques; his uncle Georges; and his aunt Mary, were flying to the United States to see Frank in April. Jean later told me that he could not put off seeing his father any longer. Because of Frank's age, he feared something might happen to him.

On March 6, Jean and his family arrived in Kingsville. They called me from a Papa John's pizza, where I went to pick them up. I was impressed at how well they had found their way around. I was also happy that Jacques spoke English and would serve as a translator. We drove to

my home where we awaited a call from Frank who was en route from Corpus Christi. The call soon came and I was off to pick up Frank. Jean and his family stayed behind to freshen up. When we arrived and walked through the front door, I think everyone was in tears. Father and son embraced each other and did not let go for a good while. They met with each other at my home for the next four days. In those four days, much was learned about the two.

According to Jean, he first learned about his father from his aunt and uncle. His mother never told him about Frank. Jean was led to believe that his stepfather was his real dad. But early on, he suspected something was not right. Jean had dark hair and was very tall compared to his relatives. It was his uncle Georges who pulled him aside and explained the facts to him when Jean was only 10. After that revelation, Jean's main goal in life was to find his father.

As a boy, Jean said he would approach anyone whom he thought could help him find his father. Every soldier he came across was asked if they knew Frank Perez of Kingsville, Texas.

As a man, Jean got a job as a Policia Fronteriz, the French equivalent of the U.S. Border Patrol. In this capacity he spent many hours working immigration lines at French airports. He would ask anyone heading to Texas or that had a surname Perez if they knew Frank Perez. No was able to help. It was not until the chance meeting with Pablo Campos that he would get his big break.

In Conclusion

The one thing I do want to say is, thank God Pablo's very approachable. For that matter, so is Jean. They are both great men. Had they not had their chance meeting, Jean would still be searching. I have never been superstitious, but in this case I take exception. The probability of this happening the way it did was very slim.

The other thing I want to say is how fortunate I feel to work for the U.S. Border Patrol. One secret about this agency that is seldom ever mentioned is that we spend a great deal time and effort bringing people together. In our everyday work we bring mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters together—you name it—and we are usually searching for family unity.

GOOD NEWS INSide



Army Colonel David M. Hergenroeder (left) in civilian attire congratulating Supervisory Agent Duran on his Commander's Award for Public Service.

AGENT RECEIVES COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent **Daniel Duran** of the McAllen Sector received a Commander's Award for Public Service May 24 for synchronizing the actions of a U.S. Navy Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron and a U.S. Marine Corps Ground Sensor Platoon supporting numerous law enforcement agencies in the upper Rio Grande Valley. Army Colonel David M. Hergenroeder presented him the award at a ceremony at the Renaissance Casa De Palmas Hotel on behalf of Brigadier General F. J. Prasek.

In the words of General Prasek, Agent Duran's outstanding work between Jan. 22 and March 22,



Commander's Award for Public Service medals.

reflected great credit upon himself, the U. S. Border Patrol, and the Department of Justice. The Commander's Award for Public Service is the fourth highest public service honorary award that may be granted to a private citizen.

INS BANGKOK HOLDS FIRST AWARDS LUNCHEON

As a token of appreciation for the outstanding cooperation received from various Thai law enforcement agencies, INS Bangkok invited various mid and high-level Thai officials to an awards luncheon May 31. About 10 Thai officials were presented plaques reading, "For outstanding cooperation with INS

Bangkok in the fight against human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and document vending."

Among the Thai officials **Brian Vaillancourt**, assistant district director for investigations, presented INS plaques to were Manit Witayatem, director-general of Thai Customs; Police Major General Tritot Ronnaritvichai, commander of the Special Branch Police; Police Lieutenant Sanya Thongboos, Special Branch Police; Police Colonel Chatape Sesavej, head of investigations, Thai Immigration Bureau; Police Lieutenant Colonel Sumit Khunanukhun, Thai Immigration Bureau; and Chaipat Chianchitlert, security manager of DHL Thailand.



Bangkok Assistant District Director for Investigations Brian Vaillancourt presenting a plaque.

ADJUDICATIONS OFFICER CALLED UP FOR ACTIVE DUTY

Cesar Baldemor, an adjudications officer and member of the 222nd Combat Communications



Adjudications Officer Cesar Baldemor on duty at John Wayne Airport.

Squadron of the California Air National Guard in Costa Mesa, Calif., has been called up for a six-month tour of duty somewhere in or near Afghanistan this summer in support of Operation Nobel Eagle.

Previously, he was called up for active duty to guard John Wayne

Airport in Orange County from October 2001 through January 2002.

ILLEGAL ALIEN ARRESTED FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

An illegal alien, who tried to swindle \$100,000 from an insurance company with a fraudulent claim about losing his wife in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, was sentenced to 15 months in a federal prison on May 8.

New Orleans INS Special Agent **Scott Warren** arrested Jihad Razzaq, 35, a Palestinian, living in New Orleans,



Special Agent Scott Warren reviews an administrative issue during a recent insurance fraud case.

after the insurance claim Razzaq filed with New York Life triggered a red flag for the New Orleans Joint Terrorism Task Force. Also sentenced to federal prison was Halim Bouderbala, an Algerian, who falsely claimed he had driven Razzaq's wife from New Orleans to New York just before the terrorist attacks.

At the time of his arrest, Razzaq was in the process of filling out a credit card application using the false name of Jeff A. Ahmed. He also had a box of credit cards and various identification documents bearing different aliases. He was charged with mail fraud, having false identification, and possessing a counterfeit bank check.



(Left to right) Eastern Regional Director J. Scott Blackman, Agent John Comotto, Immigration Inspector Hedwig Bohme, and Acting District Director Caryl G. Thompson meet during Blackman's trip to New Orleans.

EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

The New Orleans District was recently visited by Eastern Regional Director **J. Scott Blackman**. While in the city, Blackman made it a priority to visit local employees and thank them for their untiring efforts in accomplishing the INS mission.

"We must continue to accomplish the important work of the INS as we go through the process of restructuring," Blackman told employees. "Thank you very much for all your efforts, hard work, and dedication to the very important mission of INS."



Eastern Regional Director J. Scott Blackman greets Deportation Officer Fenwick Johnson during a recent visit to the New Orleans District.

To get a blurb published in *Communiqué's* "INSide" column, e-mail it to ins@casals.com or mail it to *Communiqué*, 1199 North Fairfax Street, Third Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.